

LOOKING AHEAD:

December(24) Sun: 5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II.
December(25) Mon: 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II.
December(27) Wed: 6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts (Matthews).
December(29) Fri: 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer.
December(31)Sun: 7:00 p.m. New Year's Service, HE II.

The Advent Banner

Many times in the Book of Revelations, God says “I am the Alpha and the Omega”, the beginning and the end. Sarum Blue, our color for Advent, symbolizes hope, expectation, and anticipation. We begin this new Church Year with Alpha, the first letter of the Greek alphabet. As we enter the beginning, we know with certainty, that there will be an end (Omega, the final letter).

*The Sanctuary lamp and Flowers on the Altar
are given by Gloria Knapp in memory of
Dr. Ralph Knapp and loved ones.*

PLEASE pick up envelopes for 2018.
Please do not use until 2018. If you
did not receive envelopes and would like them,
Please let Jack Rendlesham know.

Celebrant: The Rev. Stephen Secaur
Eucharistic Ministers: Jo Ann Buckley (8:00) Richard Wise (10:30)
***Eucharistic Ministers:* Wendy Charny (5:00 pm) John Charny and Dick York**
Lectors: Hal Buckley (8:00) Tom Robinson (10:30)
Acolyte: Nancy Nicholls
Acolyte (5:00 pm): Alyssa LePage
Ushers: Matt and West Matthews
Teller: Debbie Kampman
Organist: Aleksandr Leybkind

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

24 December 2017

Welcome! Please enter the nave quietly and reverently as there may be people already in prayer and contemplation.

Thank you for worshiping with us today. Your presence is important to all of us. If you are just passing through, we wish you Godspeed on your travels and hope that you will join us whenever you return. If you live in this area and are new to this parish, we welcome you and invite you to make Saint Bartholomew your church home. If you are a long-time member who has been gone for a while, welcome home---we've missed you! And if you are a member of this parish who generally shows up every week, thank you for your commitment to our parish family---well done, good and faithful servant!

About Today's Lessons

The central figure in today's liturgy is the Blessed Virgin Mary and her vocation as the human instrument of the Incarnation.

Today's Gospel is the account of the Annunciation, when Gabriel announced to the Virgin that God had chosen her to be the mother of the Messiah. Mary's humble obedience, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done unto me according to thy word..." is the model for Christian living.

The first reading today is the promise God made to David to establish his line as kings over God's people. This promise to raise up a new king of David's lineage was understood by Jews in the first century as a promise to send the Messiah.

In the second reading today Paul concludes his letter to the Church in Rome. He expresses the early Christian proclamation that in Christ the clouded meaning of the Old Testament prophecies has been revealed. In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God's plan has been made clear and the hints of that plan in the writings of the prophets have been fulfilled.

Christians gather in the liturgy to remember our story: a story which goes back through the ages. The central actor is always God, who acts in history to lead all the creation into the kingdom. God, who acted in the lives of people in the past such as David and the blessed Virgin, continues to act today in our lives. The Eucharist is the moment of encounter with God in which, like Mary, we respond, "Yes, let it be done to me according to your word."

From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*. Copyright © 2007 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.

E·P·I·S·C·O·P·A·L·...·C·H·U·R·C·H

Saint·Bartholomew

In case of a pastoral emergency, please call the church and leave a message. Messages are checked daily, and someone will get back with you. Please tell the office of any pastoral emergency as soon as possible. Fr. Stephen Secaur may be contacted directly at 440 541 8359 or by email at Fr.Stephen.saintbartohio@gmail.com.

We pray for those who are infirm, and for the continued healing of:

Dorothy, Richard and Mary, John and Caroline, Steve and Diane, Frank and Liz, Paul and Jane, Al and Marie, Allison and child, Vinton, Nancy, Betty, Fr. Jim, Carol, Harriett, Jean, Judy, Jim, Pat, Brooke, Dee, Lauren, Mary Ellen, Mary Francis, Anastasia, Mary, Greg, Irene, Robert, John, Victoria, Ann, Katie, Earnest, Richie, David, Sylvia, Jeremy, Freddie, Bob, Dolly, Sandy, Shirley, Andrea, Linda, Janelle and Jake, Toni, Quasim, Florence, Nancy, Tony, Wendy, Dolores, Tim, ...

And we offer our thanksgivings for your many blessings upon us especially for:
December 17th the offering was \$3,315.00 and the attendance was 51.

The birthdays of : ...
The anniversary of: ...

We pray for those serving in the Armed Forces...

Lt. Colonel Dan Knaup, Corporal Jason Thompson, Lt. Col. David Marcinski, Sgt. Mark Ditchman, Pvt 2 nd Class Kyle Lewis, Quartermaster Mike Thoumire, Staff Sgt. Paul Workman, Seaman Kyle Knowlton, Staff Sgt Rebecca Gibson, Staff Sgt. Frank Gibson, Sargent Jack Rolf, Sargent Anthony Worst, Col. Patrick Renwick, Sgt. John Kleeberger.

We also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially: ...

and those who have died this week in the service of their country.

The Shawl Ministry : Prayer Shawls are always available in the library area. Please feel free to take one for yourself or friends. Sign the book so that we may know where our love and prayers go. The Shawl Ministry meets on the first and third Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm. Join us if you like to knit or crochet. We are always in need of yarn donations if you happen to be cleaning out your stash or someone else's!!! Thank you for your loyal support of this ministry. Liz York: 440 946 3374.

Saint Bart's Book Club meets the second Tuesday of every month at the Gates Mills Public Library at 7:00 pm. Selections are: The **December** is **1984** by George Orwell and the January selection will be "The Light between the Seas" by M.L. Stedman. **For more information, see Wendy Charny or call her: 216 291 9235.**

25	Monday		THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
		10:30 am	Holly Eucharist, Rite II
26	Tuesday		SAINT STEPEHN DEACON AND MARTYR
		9:00 am	Office Open Franco
27	Wednesday		SAINT JOHN APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST
		6:30 pm	Cub Scouts (Matthews)
28			THE HOLY INNOCENTS
		8:00 am 9:00 am 7:00 pm	TMCC Office Open - Boyd Mankind Project
29	Friday		Of the Octave (Thomas Becket, Archbishop Canterbury)
		9:00 am	Morning Prayer
30	Saturday		<u>Of the Octave Josephine Butler, 1906)</u>
31	Sunday		THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY
		8:00 am 9:15 am 10:30 am 7:00 pm	Holy Eucharist, Rite I Bible Study Holy Eucharist, Rite II New Year's Service

**Worship through the Week, a guide for Praying and Study at home
This Week's Readings**

From the Daily Office for the week of December 25th through December 31st, 2017

**Monday: Psalm 2, 85; 110:1-5(6-7), 132
Micah 4:1-5,5:2-4; 1 John 4:7-16; John 3:31-36**

**Tuesday: Psalm St. Stephen
AM Psalm 28, 30; 2 Chronicles 24:17-22;
Acts 6:1-7
PM: 118; Wisdom 4:7-15; Acts 7:59-8:8**

**Wednesday: Psalm Holy Innocents
AM Psalm 2, 26; Isaiah 49:13-23; Matthew
18:1-14
PM Psalm 19, 126; Isaiah 54:1-13; Mark 10:13-16**

**Thursday: Psalm AM Psalm 97, 98; Proverbs
8:22-30; John 13:20-35
PM Psalm 145; Isaiah 44:1-8; 1 John 5:1-12**

**Friday: Psalm 18:1-20; 18:21-50
2 Samuel 23:13-17b; Rev. 1:1-8; John 7:37-52**

**Saturday: Psalm 20, 21:1-7(8-14); 23, 27
1 Kings 17:17-24; Rev. 1:9-20; John 7:53-8:11**

**Sunday: Psalm 24, 29; 8, 84
Gen. 3:8-15; Rev. 12:1-10; John 3:16-21
Christmas Eve:
PM Psalm 89:1-29
Isa. 59:15b-21; Phil. 2:5-11**

How to use the Daily Office: For each day, the Psalms are split into M (morning) and PM (evening) readings by the "&" You may read them this way or together at one time. Optional readings are in [brackets]. Below the Psalms you have an Old Testament, New Testament, and Gospel reading for each day. The entire Bible can be read in two years following this format from the Book of Common Prayer.